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HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™
KEITH GIFFEN
POP MHAN
DCCOMICS.COM
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NO, NO! NOT THAT! THAT! OVER THERE!
YES, MAJESTY.
AND YOU, WHY ARE YOU GATHERING UP INCIDENTALS?! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...?
KTANG
THW UUUP
KTASH
CHOKT

...RARE ITEMS! ONLY THE RARE ITEMS!
YES, MAJESTY.
DON'T YOU "YES MAJESTY" ME UNLESS YOU'RE DOING WHAT I TELL YOU TO DO!
NO, MAJESTY.
DID YOU JUST SAY "NO" TO ME?

N...UM... YES, MAJESTY, BUT--
I WON'T HAVE IT! BAD ENOUGH HIS REEMERGENCE HAS FORCED ME TO VACATE MY PRECIOUS TROPICAL PARADISE!
I WILL NOT HAVE MY MOOD FURTHER DARKENED BY BAD MANNERS! IS THAT UNDERSTOOD!?
YEE!

:COUGH: NOW SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE? I SHOULD HAVE YOU FLAYED FOR DARING TO FOUL THE AIR IN MY CHAMBERS!
YOU, THE ONE NOT BURNING, BE QUICK ABOUT IT NOW! I'M NOT ALL THAT CERTAIN HOW LONG MY WARRIORS CAN HOLD HIM...

...BACK.
WELL. THIS IS CERTAINLY UNCOMFORTABLE.

AND BOUND TO GET A LOT *MORE* UNCOMFORTABLE UNLESS YOU ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS TO MY SATISFACTION.
NONSENSE. YOU'VE NEVER STRUCK A WOMAN AND YOU NEVER WILL.
I WILL.
YE-ES... THERE *IS* THAT...
THE POWER!
writing by KEITH GIFFEN
art by POP MHAN
colors by LEE LOUGHRIDGE
letters by SAIDA TEMOFONTE
cover by DAVE WILKINS
editing by MICHAEL McCALISTER

CASTLE GRAYSKULL
...COULD YOU NOT KNOW THIS WOULD BE THE OUTCOME?
DO I LOOK A FOOL!? OF COURSE I KNEW THIS WOULD BE THE OUTCOME... WERE HE ALLOWED TO LIVE!
AND BACK TO THAT AGAIN.
IF YOUR DESIRE FOR HIS DEATH WAS SO GREAT, WHY DID YOU NOT HUNT HIM DOWN AND KILL HIM? IT IS NOT AS IF HE MOVED ABOUT COVERTLY.
WHY CHARGE UNDERLINGS WITH A TASK OF SUCH... IMPORT?
WHAT OTHER PURPOSE DO THEY SERVE IF NOT TO SERVE!?
AND TAKE THE BLAME SHOULD YOU BE PROVEN WRONG?
THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER!
FOR NOW.
FOR ALL TIME!

M-MASTER?
CHOOSE YOUR NEXT WORDS CAREFULLY IF YOU WOULD SEE THE SUN RISE.
THE ADVERSARY... THE HE-MAN, HE WILL COME.
OF COURSE HE WILL COME! VENGEANCE WILL PROPEL HIM!
THEY ALL WILL COME NOW THAT THE SPELL IS UNDONE.
A-ALL!?
THE SO-CALLED MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE. MY NEPHEW WAS THE BEACON.
SO LONG AS THE SPELL LIVED WITHIN HIM, IT WOULD LIVE WITHIN ALL OF THEM. IT AMUSED ME THAT HE SHOULD BE THE SOURCE.
WE... WE SHOULD PREPARE!
IS THAT YOUR CONCERN? THAT THE BATTLEMENTS BE MANNED? THAT CASTLE GRAYSKULL BE FORTIFIED FOR THE SIEGE TO COME?
GO THEN. SEE TO IT IF IT WILL BRING YOU COMFORT.
YES, SIRE! THANK YOU, SIRE!
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO YOU.
POWER OF GRAYSKULL OR NO, I AM STILL SKELETOR, FIRSTBORN OF DARKNESS, LORD OF THE BLEAK DOMINION.
COME THEN, NEPHEW. KNOW OF SKELETOR...KNOW OF DOOM.

VERIDAS
... BARELY A SPECK ON THE MAP! D' Y'THINK Y'COULD'A FOUND A LESS REMOTE SPOT?
PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE HUNG A BANNER? "THIS WAY TO THE REBELLION"?
HARDLY A "REBELLION" IF WE'RE TAKIN' BACK WHAT'S OURS, IS'T NOW?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
VERIDAS
FUR 'N GRUB
GUESS I DO, TEELA. JUST BLOWING OFF SOME STEAM. COUPLE'A MONTHS OF NOT KNOWING YOURSELF FROM A HOLE IN A WALL...THAT'LL SET A MAN OFF MEAN, IT WILL.
I STILL THINK THIS IS A BAD IDEA.
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS.

NOT TO MY SATISFACTION. SKELETOR WANTS ME. THE REST OF YOU ARE--
BEHIND YOU ONE HUNDRED PERCENT! YOU'LL NOT BE FACING HIM ALONE!
THAT'S JUST IT. I THINK I SHOULD.
HOW WOULD THAT NOT BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO SKELETOR'S HANDS?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WOULDN'T BE DOING. SKELETOR IS A CREATURE DRIVEN BY EGO. IT'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO HIM THAT PEOPLE WOULDN'T REACT TO A GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCE THE SAME WAY HE WOULD.
THE THIEF ALWAYS BELIEVES PEOPLE ARE STEALING FROM HIM.
EXACTLY. AND IF SKELETOR'S AND MY POSITIONS WERE REVERSED...?
HE'D ATTACK YOU WITH EVERYTHING HE'S GOT.
HE'S EXPECTING AN ARMY.
I SAY WE DISAPPOINT HIM.
I SAY IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. WHAT IF HE PUTS ANOTHER WHAMMY ON YOU?
ORKO'S NOT HERE TO BETRAY US THIS TIME.
AS UNACCUSTOMED AS I AM TO SUCH THINGS, I THINK THE ASSEMBLED MASTERS SHOULD EACH HAVE A VOTE IN THE MATTER. ALONE OR AT THE HEAD OF AN ARMY?
A SHOW OF ARMS THEN. WHO AGREES WITH MY SON THAT HE ALONE SHOULD FACE DOWN SKELETOR?

STILL SULKING?
I DON'T SULK.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SPOKEN UP, STOPPED THE VOTE IF YOU WERE THAT DETERMINED TO FOLLOW YOUR OWN COURSE OF ACTION.
THAT'S WHAT SKELETOR WOULD DO.
DON'T YOU MEAN "UNCLE" SKELETOR?
WE'LL BE LEAVING AS SOON AS THE DARK PROVIDES COVER.
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...DID YOU HAVE TO TELL ME THAT? COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST SLINKED OFF AND--
I DON'T SLINK.
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW, SEEING HOW WE'VE DRAWN BLOOD TOGETHER.
NOW I'VE GOT TO GO WITH YOU!
NO! NO YOU DON'T!
IT'S THAT OR STAY HERE AND EITHER LIE TO THEM OR GET CASTIGATED BY THEM FOR NOT TELLING ON YOU! DAMMITALL! THIS IS JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS!
YOU'D DECIDE TO DO SOMETHING STUPID THEN DRAW ME IN BY TELLING ME ABOUT--
YOU KNOW, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED YOU ANYWAY.
NEXT TIME CAN YOU THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU START YELLING AT ME?

"WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?"
SOON. VERY SOON. CAN YOU FEEL IT?
THEY ARE NEAR?
HE. HE IS NEAR. HIS RAGE PRECEDES HIM.
HMPH! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL THAT! I THINK THE TEELA WITCH MAY HAVE SCRAMBLED MY FACILITIES.
SHE WILL DIE BY INCHES, THAT ONE.
AS WILL YOU IF YOU DO NOT CEASE YOUR INCESSANT PRATTLING!
LET HIM COME. I BROUGHT HIM DOWN ONCE, I CAN DO SO AGAIN. THIS TIME I WILL NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF LETTING HIM LIVE.
BUT, SIRE, THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL. IF ANY WOULD KNOW THE KEY TO UNLOCKING IT, IT WOULD BE--
GRAYSKULL IS STONE AND MORTAR AND HISTORY. THERE IS NO POWER HERE EXCEPT FOR THE POWER HE CHANNELS THROUGH THE SWORD.
BUT YOU FELT THE POWER WITHIN THE CASTLE'S--
I FELT WHAT THE CURSED SORCERESS WANTED ME TO FEEL. HER GLAMOUR DIED WITH HER, LEAVING BEHIND ONLY COLD STONE.
MORE FOOL SKELETOR, THEN, FOR HIDING THE SWORD AWAY.
BETTER YOU HAD KEPT IT NEAR TO CHANNEL GRAYSKULL'S POWER ONCE YOU ACCESSED ITS SOURCE.
ADDLED WENCH! HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING AT ALL?!
THE SWORD IS THE MEANS BY WHICH THE POWER IS DRAWN TO HIM! TO HIM AND HIM ALONE! IT DOES SO FOR NO OTHER!
MPH!
OF WHAT USE WOULD SUCH A SWORD BE TO ME?!

MMF! MF-N!
THE SORCERESS PLANNED HER DECEPTION WELL, LAYERED IT OVER MY DECEPTION.
SHE USED MY SPELL TO CONCEAL HERS AND I, SKELETOR, I...
...SAW ONLY WHAT SHE WANTED ME TO SEE BECAUSE IT WAS WHAT I WANTED TO SEE.
WELL PLAYED, TEELA NA. WELL PLAYED.
WHUMP
HE IS HERE! THE HE-MAN RESTORED! HE--
MUST I PULL THE TONGUE FROM YOUR HEAD AS WELL?
MMFF'L MPH'N! MPH!
KABOOM
IT IS SKELETOR HE SEEKS. THE OTHER, THE WRETCHED IMP IS WELL BEYOND HIS REACH.
SO BE IT...
...IT ENDS TODAY!

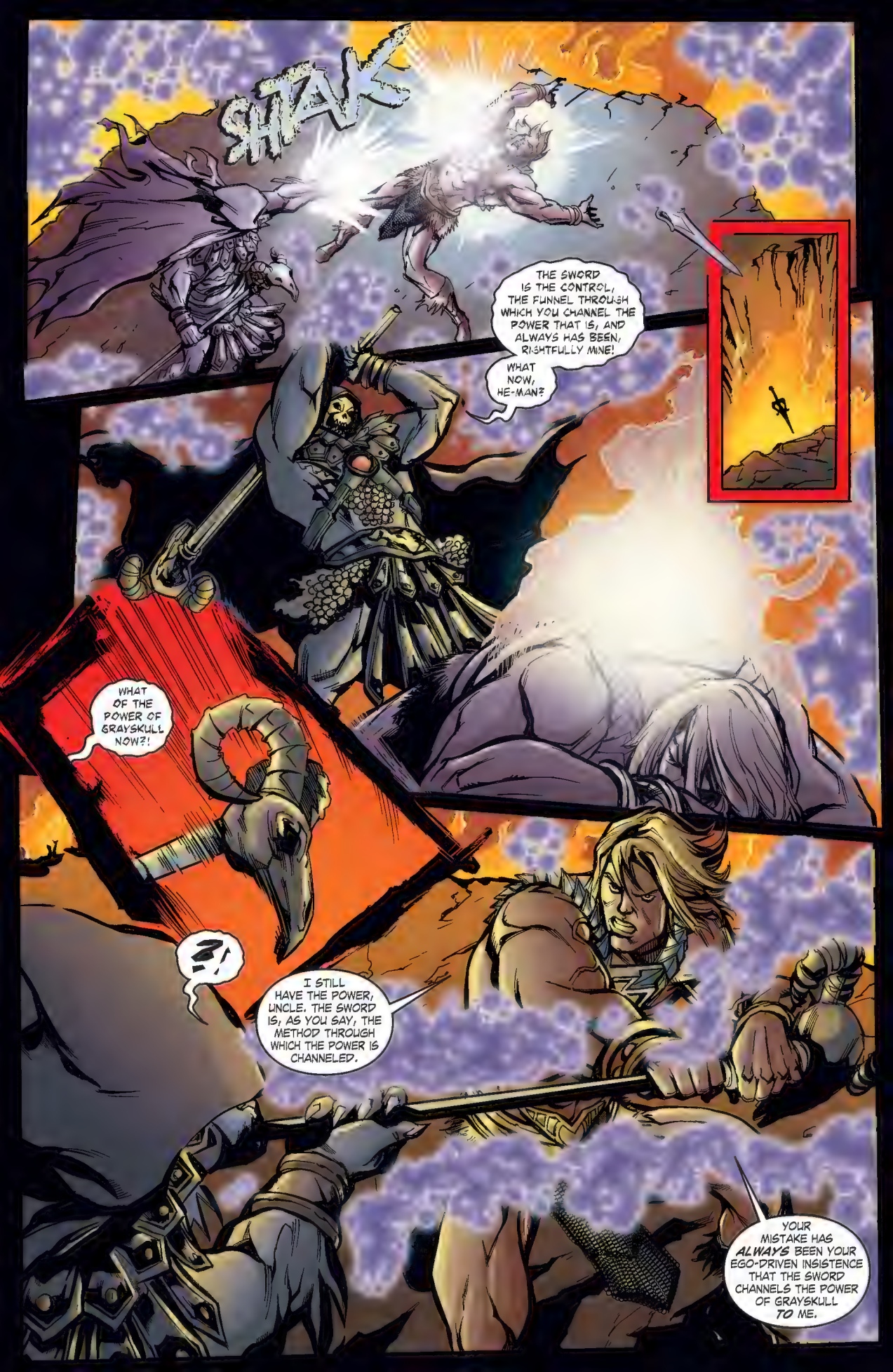
REMEMBER WHEN I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME? THAT I COULD KEEP UP?
I SEEM TO REMEMBER MY TELLING YOU NOT TO COME ALONG!
I TAKE IT BACK!
A BIT LATE FOR THAT, DON'T YOU THINK?
AM I BEING SMUG? I THOUGHT I WAS BEING CHARMING!
REFRESH MY MEMORY, HAS THAT SWORD ALWAYS TURNED YOU INTO A SMUG WANK OR IS THIS SOMETHING NEW?
CHARMING'S HARD TO PULL OFF WHEN YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD THAT'S NOT YOURS!
THE POT'S CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK?
ON ME IT'S A FASHION STATEMENT!
I'LL TRY TO KEEP THAT IN MIND!

CHA KABOOM
DID YOU THINK I WOULD COWER WITHIN THE CASTLE WALLS AMID THE WRETCHED SYCOPHANTS DRAWN TO MY POWER!?
GOOD CALL.
I'LL... UM... WAIT BACK HERE.
THAT'S WHAT ALL OF THIS HAS BEEN ABOUT. THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT. POWER.
THE STOLEN MEMORIES, THE SUBTLE TORMENTS--
SUBTLE TORMENTS?

I THINK OUR DEARLY DEPARTED SORCERESS WOULD DISAGREE WITH THAT ASSESSMENT. NO?
A FOE TO BE ERADICATED!
THAT WAS A KILLING BLOW. FINALLY YOU SEE ME AS I SEE YOU. THE FOCUS OF YOUR HATRED.
HE STRIKES AT THE MASTER! FORWARD!
FOR SKELETOR!
NO!
HE IS MINE TO KILL! MINE ALONE!

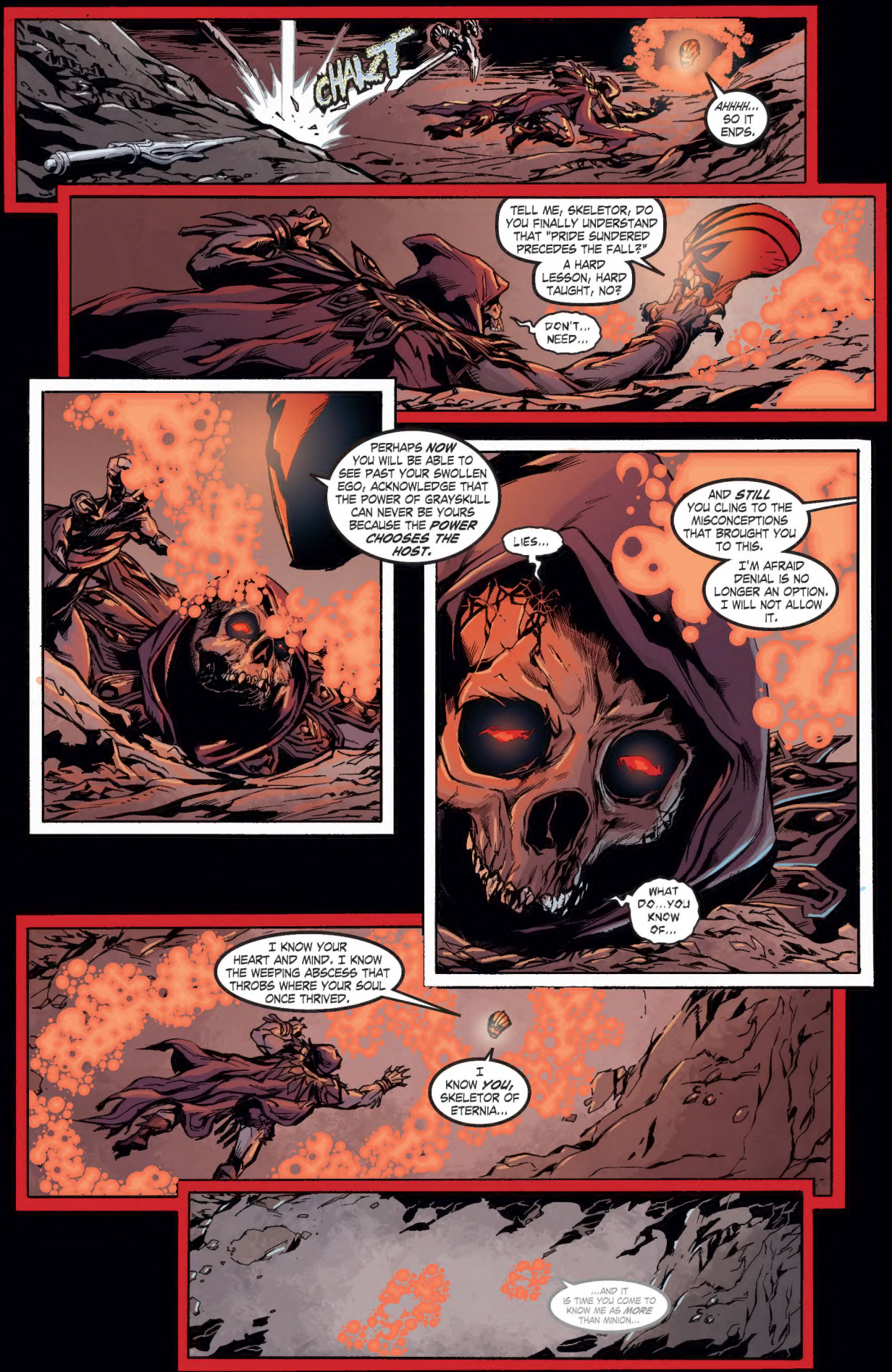
TOO CLOSE. MY DADDY DIDN'T RAISE NO COLLATERAL DAMAGE.
THEN AGAIN, THE NIGHT IS YOUNG...

ONLY ONE OF US WALKS AWAY TODAY!
ONE ON ONE? NO MORE COWERING BEHIND YOUR LACKEYS?
I HAD YOU! YOU WERE COMPLETELY AT MY MERCY! I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU THEN, POWER OF GRAYSKULL BE DAMNED!
A VICTORY BORN OF DUPLICITY! BASE BETRAYAL!
FAIR OR FOUL, IT MATTERS LITTLE TO ME!
AND THAT IS WHY YOU WILL FOREVER BE UNDONE! MIGHT WINS THE WAR BUT HONOR WINS THE PEACE!
ALTRUISTIC BUFFOON! I WILL HEAR NO MORE!


SHAK
THE SWORD IS THE CONTROL, THE FUNNEL THROUGH WHICH YOU CHANNEL THE POWER THAT IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, RIGHTFULLY MINE!
WHAT NOW, HE-MAN?
WHAT OF THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL NOW?!
?!
I STILL HAVE THE POWER, UNCLE. THE SWORD IS, AS YOU SAY, THE METHOD THROUGH WHICH THE POWER IS CHANNELED.
YOUR MISTAKE HAS *ALWAYS* BEEN YOUR EGO-DRIVEN INSISTENCE THAT THE SWORD CHANNELS THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL *TO* ME.

FROM ME, UNCLE. I AM THE HOST. THE SWORD CHANNELS THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL FROM ME. I DON'T JUST *HAVE* THE POWER...
...I AM THE POWER!
NOOOOOOOO
I...
IS HE DEAD?! WILL THE FLAMES KILL HIM?

FWOOOSH
WHM
I'M GOING TO SAY... YES!
LIAR.
LEARN FROM THIS, UNCLE. I'VE NO MORE PITY LEFT TO GIVE YOU.


CHA-T
AHHHH... SO IT ENDS.
TELL ME, SKELETOR, DO YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND THAT "PRIDE SUNDERED PRECEDES THE FALL?" A HARD LESSON, HARD TAUGHT, NO?
DON'T... NEED...
PERHAPS NOW YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE PAST YOUR SWOLLEN EGO, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL CAN NEVER BE YOURS BECAUSE THE POWER CHOOSES THE HOST.
LIES...
AND STILL YOU CLING TO THE MISCONCEPTIONS THAT BROUGHT YOU TO THIS.
I'M AFRAID DENIAL IS NO LONGER AN OPTION. I WILL NOT ALLOW IT.
WHAT DO...YOU KNOW OF...
I KNOW YOUR HEART AND MIND. I KNOW THE WEEPING ABSCESS THAT THROBS WHERE YOUR SOUL ONCE THRIVED.
I KNOW YOU, SKELETOR OF ETERNIA...
...AND IT IS TIME YOU COME TO KNOW ME AS MORE THAN MINION...

...EVEN THOUGH I MUST ADMIT TO HAVING PLAYED THAT PART WELL. I HAVE ALWAYS PLAYED THAT PART WELL, DON'T YOU THINK?
KNOW THIS, SKELETOR OF ETERNIA, AS MUCH AS I DESIRE IT, IT IS NOT YET TIME FOR YOU TO DIE, NOT THAT YOUR CURSED NEPHEW HAS IT WITHIN HIM TO SEE YOU DEAD.
BUT THERE ARE OTHERS-- THE TEELA WENCH COMES TO MIND--WHO WOULD GUT YOU IN AN INSTANT WITH LITTLE THOUGHT GIVEN TO THE CONSEQUENCES.
AND IT IS ALWAYS ABOUT CONSEQUENCES... NO?
THUS YOU LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY, AND YOU WILL, SKELETOR, YOU MOST DEFINITELY WILL.
I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.
TO BE CONTINUED?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!